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at a conference held with members of the East German government on 7 and 8 September 1953, voiced his discontent with the misleading information furnished to him by the SED leadership on the mood of the West German population. Also [redacted] Samanov stated that the result of the West German elections was a complete surprise. The Soviets had expected a greater success for the SPD and had also believed that Dr. Wirth's and Dr. Heinemann's party had some chances.

2. When Walter Ulbricht voiced the opinion that the result of the West German elections forced East Germany to resume its plans for building up an East German army, Semenov allegedly countered with the question whether East Germany had the workers required for this project.
3. At the conference, Semenov ordered that the "new course" be intensified. NKP leaders believed that Semenov, in giving these directives, was following an order given by Moscow. The living conditions in East Germany are to be improved by all means. On the other hand, it is generally expected among East German political circles that the standard of living will deteriorate in West Germany as a result of Adenauer's "war policy".

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Comment. The statement that Semenov conferred with East German government representatives and reproached them with giving him false information on the situation of West Germany was also reported by "Telegraf" on 10 September 1953. On the same evening the truth of this report was denied by the East Berlin radio, which, however, does not guarantee that the report was unfounded. It has been reported [] that Semenov is pressing for the continuation of the new course which envisages better living conditions for the East German population. However, it sometimes appears that Semenov's notions on this new course are different from those of the Ulbricht clique which is backed up by Yudin. CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

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